

National Council of Space Grant Directors

Minutes of the October 28-29, 2002, Council Meeting in Dorado, Puerto Rico

Council Chair Bill Hiscock convened the meeting on October 28, 2002, at approximately 8am.

Welcome

The participants were welcomed by Brad Weiner, Director of the Puerto Rico Space Grant Consortium. Brad also announced the birth of a daughter to Yari Colon, who played a major role in organizing the conference.

University of Puerto Rico Vice President Manuel Gomez welcomed the group and described the benefits that Puerto Rico derives from Space Grant. These include an increase in the numbers of SMET BS degrees from 1500/year to more than 3000/year in ten years. UPR went from 12 (1992) to 48 (2001) PhDs. More graduates are working with NASA.

Announcements

Bill Hiscock, Council Chair, announced that Aileen Yingst and Susan Sullivan also recently gave birth. There are three new designated states: Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin. New directors are Shan De Silva, North Dakota, and Luke Flynn, Hawaii.

Minutes

The minutes of the September 2001 Fairbanks meeting were approved.

The minutes of the March 2002 Washington DC meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Council Treasurer Peter Sukanek reported that the current balance in the checking account is \$6,103.53 and that \$11,186.79 is on deposit with the Foundation. Together the total balance in the treasury is \$17,290.32.

Recognition of Service of John Wefel

The Council presented John Wefel a plaque recognizing his two years of service as Council Chair.

Headquarters Report

Julius Dasch noted that we have to be as competitive as we possibly can. Sean O'Keefe's message is "competition, competition, competition." We have to show that Space Grant is competitive in every possible way. Programs that are not competitive are in danger of being viewed as block grants to the states.

Julius' responses to questions from Directors:

1. Accounting for how the \$5M budget increase was used to support Space Grant:
 - \$3.56 to workforce awards
 - \$675K for 3 upgrades
 - Remaining \$765K was divided 52 ways, for \$5,750 each.
 - Program assistant \$127,750
 - Cost for computer support and peer review services 150000 (same as for all earmarks in FE)

2. Fifteen Year Review

A purpose is to address consortia that are underperforming, with possible outcomes being a 5 year grant, a 1 year grant, or recompetition within the state. Points to be evaluated include:

Program Responsiveness and Results

Responsiveness and Participation

Affiliate Survey (regarding participation, with goal of fuller participation)

Decision making process.

Communications, meetings, understanding that there is a diversity emphasis, information.

3. Diane DeTroye reported that the Steckler results should be announced within a month.

4. J-M Wersinger reported that 9 states (AL AZ CT MS NE NH OH UT VA) are now in the Earth Grant program.

5. Questions/Comments from the Floor: Majid Jariedi requested faster responses from HQ. Diane said we'll try harder. Warfield is picking up many duties that will allow more attention to inquiries from Directors. Bill Garrard asked when next year's proposals will be due, and are there changes in the amounts of money. Notice will be sent out next week, using \$19.1M. Mary Sandy asked about the time-frame for workforce augmentations. They start September 1. Brent Bowen asked about workforce proposals that were awarded less than requested. A notice was sent out explaining what items were cut from particular budgets. Pat Hynes requested Julius work to help cohesion within the SG family. Al Strauss said surveys of affiliates should not be evaluated without director's evaluations of the affiliates' performance. Diane noted that those issues would be addressed in the program performance section of the report. Question were raised about problems with CMIS evaluation, as the instructions were not to report applicants, but some were dinged for the apparent 1:1 award ratio.

Board Elections

Brent Bowen (Chair of Nominations Committee) distributed ballots for Directors or their representatives to vote for 2 members of the Foundation Board and 4 members of the Alliance Board of Directors. Nominations from the floor were requested.

Foundation Board Electees: Mitch Colgan, Mike Wiskerchen

Alliance Board Electees: John Wefel, Mary Sandy, Yervant Terzian, Pat Hynes

Status of NASA Education Program

Frank Owens and Malcom Phelps

Frank noted that after we know the direction of the agency, we need to insure that Space Grant can contribute to it. The new vision includes education as a core mission of the agency: "To inspire the next generation of explorers ... as only NASA can." We can't do everything, so we have to do "what only NASA can." Frank asked Space Grant directors to look at their programs with this idea in mind. He discussed the need for scientists and engineers for the nation and for NASA. The goal is to combine all of the assets for education within NASA into a new organization (Office of Education, Code N) equivalent to an Enterprise, led by Dr. Adena Loston as an Associate Administrator. It is comprised of Education Division, Minority University Research and Education Division, and the enterprise education components, with a budget that is of all the components. A review is underway to ensure that all programs are aligned with the new priorities.

The four priorities are:

1. K-16+ pipeline, dealing with individual students, all the way to the workforce.
2. Tools and experiences for educators (teachers and university faculty)

3. Evaluation (to make wise use of the taxpayer's money)
4. Increasing the participation of underrepresented groups

Two Strategies:

1. Expand the pool of K-12 students preparing for SMET
 - Explorer Academies (about 50 middle schools) to emphasize preparation for SMET careers.
 - Scholarships for Service
 - Explorer Institutes
 - Educator Mission Specialist (astronauts)
2. Higher Education, increase the number of students entering the SMET workforce

John Gregory stated that Space Grant should have a part in the planning for implementation. Frank wants to include Space Grant representation in the meetings with external constituencies. Janice DeCosmo asked how the new AA relates to the plan that is being put together. Alec Gallimore described the Air Force experience with its scholarship program, and the need for integration of the products into the agency, with special attention and mentorship. Sharon Brandt noted that a crucial area is follow-through -- to keep students interested all the way to careers. Frank suggested that Space Grant is well-equipped to work with the NSF Math-Science Partnership Program. Al Strauss mentioned the special legislative mandates for Space Grant, and the need for the AA to understand them. Yervant Terzian asked what will be done for the commitments if the budget comes in at \$19.1M. Frank expects that congress will give \$24.1M. If we are budgeted at \$19.1M, he will have to reduce programs on a pro-rata basis. Frank initially submits the numbers given by congress for the previous year. Then, internal and OMB reviews can change them along the way, but when the final administration budget is set, NASA gets behind it. Malcom reiterated the need to use competition everywhere possible, for better programs and to meet the operating assumptions of the new administration. The organizational structure of the new Education Enterprise is still uncertain.

Panel Discussion with Center Representatives

Katie Blanding, NASA HQ UAO
Linda Rogers, JPL UAO Administrator
Ramona Pelletier Travis, Stennis, UAO and MURED Center Manager
Mabelline Burrell, Goddard, University Program Specialist
Pam Biegert, Kennedy, Chief, Education Programs
Greg Buckingham, Kennedy UAO
Mike Freeman, Kennedy, Spaceport Technology Liaison
Susan Miller, Dryden, Director of Academic Investments

The goal is more interaction between Space Grant and NASA Centers. Frank challenged UAO's to develop working relations with Space Grant. The goal is to have Space Grant bring the personnel to help centers through SFFP, GSRP, etc. Another area is future workforce development, for NASA, aerospace industries, and university researcher affiliations. Frank says we need to tie our Space Grant supported students to the HR offices at NASA Centers. Katie Blanding announced that the new NASA Faculty Fellowship Program replaces the Summer Faculty Fellowship Program, providing research opportunities extended into the academic year. She sees Space Grant helping recruit faculty and students to work on projects that is research for specific missions in NASA, and to insure that it reaches underrepresented groups. More minority applicants are needed. Greg Buckingham and Ramona Travis noted that NASA needs Space Grant help find people to respond to opportunities in areas on NASA's specific needs. As they apply, they have a good chance of selection if they match the missions and needs of NASA.

Frank Six mentioned MSFC's new research institute, NSSTC, with opportunities for collaboration with university researchers, assembling teams that propose for funding. Mabelline Burrell mentioned IPA opportunities at the centers, available on the NASA website. Linda Rogers said there is no better way to recruit students than to partner with Space Grant.

Fall 2003 Conference

The Directors were reminded that next Fall's conference will be in Wichita, KS, the "flight capital of the world." There is a folder and a questionnaire for each state Director.

Evaluation

Presentation by Bob Hannafin, Virginia Space Grant Consortium, College of William and Mary
Evaluations help us determine whether our efforts are useful and effective at what they are supposed to do. An important purpose of evaluation is to guide the program, make corrections, find errors and openly report and correct them, leading to continuous improvement.

(<http://www.eval.org/> and <http://www.wm.edu/act2online/PR/handouts.htm>)

NSF Math-Science Partnerships Program

Joe Danek, EPSCoR Foundation

Joe discussed the next generation of the NSF systemic initiative programs

(<https://www.ehr.nsf.gov/msp/>). Space Grant is a national resource and should look for opportunities to participate in these proposals.

Starting Student Space Hardware Programs

Elaine Hansen and Chris Koehler

Chris described the workshop that was conducted in Boulder in June, 2002, in which Space Grant personnel from across the nation participated in the development of balloon payloads and in balloon flights, tracking, and payload recovery. (<http://spacegrant.colorado.edu/studensat/>)

National Space Grant Student Satellite Program Update

Mike Drake

The Mars Program is committed to providing \$12M for a student satellite program, if matched by Code N. Mike Drake and Bill Hiscock will visit the new AA before the end of the year. There are several rendezvous practice missions to Mars, and there is a need for hardware to photograph the rendezvous. Our request for Space Grant to be on the manifests for shuttle missions is being processed for submission, for January 03, 04, 05. Mike spoke with the Presidential Aerospace Commission staff, which may recommend use of space on Delta and Atlases for launch of Space Grant hardware.

Earth Science Education Workshop

David Bartlett and Janice DeCosmo

Janice described the NASA-sponsored workshop involving faculty and industry. Mary Sandy wants to develop a group for a national-level Space Grant proposal to the CAN, with participation of all states in the opportunities for development of learning activities on the undergraduate level.

EPSCoR Across the Agencies: A Perspective

Jane Harrington, NSF (and Executive Secretary, EPSCoR Interagency Coordinating Committee)
OMB is looking at how the EPSCoR programs are coordinating, particularly to avoid duplication.

New Developments in the NASA Academic Programs and NAAA

Dave Rosage, Doug O'Handley, Fernmarie Rodriguez

2003 Academy applications will be submitted online (via Virginia SGC)

Council Session of October 29, 2003

Convened at 11am

(BPR presentation cancelled)

KSC Programs and Opportunities

Mike Freeman

Mike and Greg Buckingham have visited some Space Grants to try to develop cooperations with KSC.

Dave Bartine

Talked about KSC and its research, related to operations, including:

Fluid systems technologies

Cryogenics testbed, insulation, flexible pipes

Advanced umbilical systems

Electromagnetic physics testbed (charge buildup)

Vibrations and acoustics testbed (vibrations in launch vehicles)

Corrosion technology testbed

Solar System Educators Program (SSEP) and Undergraduate Student Research Program (USRP)

Mary Sandy

USRP: The Virginia Space Grant Consortium manages the NASA USRP Program for NASA.

They placed 130 students at 10 NASA Centers for the 2002 sessions

The strategy is to use NASA money first, and then ask Centers to identify qualified candidates that can be funded by Space Grant.

SSEP: Applications should be submitted in November, and awards are on a first-come-first-served basis.

Foundation Presentation

Bill Byrd

Each Space Grant consortium can have a free domain name www.xx.spacegrant.org, which can be routed to the existing site.

Foundation Treasurer's Report

Dick Henry

Thus far, 48 states have registered as tax exempt. The current balance in the Foundation treasury is \$130,835.21, of which \$31,959 is in endowment accounts and \$98,875 is in expenditure accounts. All states have contributed to the Foundation

Bill described the organization, administration, and operation of the Foundation.

He also discussed mechanisms for transferring money, and policies on overhead cost taken by the Foundation.

Mike Wiskerchen reported on being prime contractor for the NASA Ames Education Associates Program (\$1.3M), designed to place students, post-docs, and faculty in technical positions at Ames (<http://edassoc.arc.nasa.gov>). Ames pays for stipends. Space Grant could also pay for stipends. Students should enter profile data and view the opportunities on the Ames website.

Upcoming opportunities for the Foundation:

Science and Technology Scholarship Program (NASA ROTC) is being worked on.

NASA Student Involvement Program, Erian Armanios, PI, with the Foundation.

K-12 Environmental Observation Program

This is the GLOBE program being transitioned from federal to private management.

Space Grant in Alabama is proposing to be the managing contractor, through the Foundation.

NASA Faculty Fellowship Program - possibility for Space Grant, with Foundation helping.

Work Force Programs in DoD

Space-based Power and Propulsion

Exhibitors at the Fall Meetings

Space Grant Awards Banquet

Enterprise Working Group Reports

Aerospace Technology

Brent Bowen

Results will be posted on the Aerospace Working Group website.

BPR

Brad Weiner

Some members of the working group are planning to meet with the AA in Washington.

Other details are on the website.

Earth Science

Lisa Brown

Lisa discussed the GLOBE proposal and REASON CAN contributions.

HEDS

Mark Fischer

Members briefed General Howell, the new Director of JSC, and have an open opportunity to see him.

Space Science

Yervant Terzian

Ricardo Giacconi won the Nobel prize.

The meeting was adjourned.